widely used, chiefly in the form of *leben*, a fermented milk product, cheese or butter. About 60 to 70 per cent of the milk is derived from sheep; the remainder, from cattle or goats. The Juliana breed of cattle and a special breed of "Damascus goat" are raised in most regions and are noteworthy as milk producers. Fowl and eggs are usually plentiful, but the consumption of meat is normally low, especially in the rural areas. Mutton is the principal meat, although the flesh of cattle, goats and camels is also utilized. Fish are valuable as a source of protein in the Euphrates and the Khabour river basins and along the coast; they are seldom available in other regions.

The Bedouin live chiefly on milk products made from the milk of their flocks, augmented by cereals and, occasionally, dates. Meat is often more of a luxury among the nomads than among the villagers. The average Bedouin diet is usually sparse and monotonous.

Housing

Life in rural Syria centers in the villages, which are self-contained social units. Structurally, they are compact, with the houses attached, and built in such a manner that a continuous windowless wall faces the street. Mud brick or adobe is the predominating building material, although stone is sometimes employed in the highland areas. The houses may consist of one or several rooms, which almost invariably open into a central compound. Separate shelters for storage and for the livestock may line the sides of the courtyards, but in the poorer villages the domestic animals are frequently housed with the family, at least during the winter months. The roofs are typically flat, made of rolled earth overlaid on poles and reeds or of thatch. Beehive-type houses with domed or conical roofs, however, are a characteristic feature of the treeless plains in Latakia, Aleppo and Al Jazira provinces. Dwellings built partially underground, often simulating caves, are encountered in some mountain villages in Latakia. Considerable

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